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Newsletter

Number 17

19 June 2015



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Thanks

... to those parents who assisted with this week's year 7 and 8 outdoor education experience ... and thanks again to the Finlayson's for their hospitality.

... to those parents who attended the Kamo High School information evening.

... to our Trivia team and those who supported the event .. your efforts are very much appreciated.

.. to those parents who assisted with supervision and transport for the yr 6 Ten Pin Bowling.

.. A BIG THANK YOU to all the families who contributed grocery items or their time to make the catering possible on Monday. Together we raised over \$2900 for our school.

People of the week

... Pam, for the kind donation of items to Room 9.

... Elizabeth T for selection to the Northforce 13 Grade Soccer Squad. We understand you have made a great start Elizabeth.

.. Congratulations to Josiah P and Elijah L for their successes in their first gymnastics competition. Josiah finished 2nd in Level 1 and Elijah 1st in Level 2. Congratulations to Jack H who also participated and finished 12th in Level 2.

Congratulations

... to Tyrone F who was awarded a Sir Peter Blake Young Leader award at a special assembly today. This is a great honour Tyrone. We are proud of what you have achieved and thank you for the example you set for other children.

... to Miss Griffin who, having met (or exceeded) all required standards, was this week recommended for full teacher registration.

Term calendar *(We will advise further dates as these come to hand)*

19 June	Portfolios issued
26 June	Mathex
29/30 June	Parent interviews
3 July	Final day of term 2

Parent Interviews

As advised, interviews will be held 29 and 30 June. Parents are invited to make their appointments by visiting www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and entering YFX42

Notice of early finish to school days

Please note that school finishes at 2:30 PM on 29 and 30 June to allow teachers time to prepare for interviews. Please note that buses will run approximately 30 minutes earlier on these days (with earlier drop off times). Parents who pick their children up from school are asked to do so at this earlier time please.

Cambridge Programme

Thank you for enquiries around our proposal to offer the Cambridge programme in the year 7 and 8 part of our school from 2016. This is a VERY significant step and we appreciate that you will have lots of questions. Rest assured that we will provide thorough information once approval is given (quite a process it seems), so that you fully understand what this will mean for your child. We are very excited about the opportunities and possibilities this will open for your year 7 and 8 students. So .. watch this space. Lots more to follow.

Current Virtue

Our current virtue is KINDNESS. Please set aside special time at home to ..

- ... talk about the importance of kindness
- ... how you practise / have practised kindness in your life
- ... how the kindness of others has meant something to you in the past
- ... how your children might practise this moving forward

And PLEASE advise us of shining examples so that we can use these to encourage others. Support material will be attached to this or the next newsletter.

Parents of Room 8 children

As many of you know Miss Gentil takes maternity leave from the beginning of next term, returning around mid-point in term 4. I am pleased to advise that Andrew Johnson will teach in this room during her absence. We have full confidence that Andrew will keep the class ticking over, and know that you will all make him welcome.

Portfolios

Portfolios were issued today. Please flick through these with your child(ren) and celebrate their gains. Portfolios contain earlier samples (where available) and National Exemplars to assist in making comparisons. National Standards Reports will be presented to you at forthcoming interviews. Please bring portfolios with you to interviews. Guidelines for reading portfolios

When reading portfolios we encourage parents to ...

- ... look at progress over time and note patterns (as opposed to 'one offs')
- ... not place too much emphasis on assessment results that contradict established patterns - this happens!
- ... balance data based assessments with samples in the portfolio (these are just as important)
- ... understand that children accelerate, slow, plateau, and accelerate again ... just as we do as adults
- ... remember that norm referenced scores are very difficult to shift in the short (and sometimes the longer) term ... these tests are designed this way.
- ... National Standards are very broadly based ... across multiple tests and including hundreds of skill areas. Again, most children may shift in test areas but may well not shift their National Standards assessment.
- ... celebrate the gains and be positive about the next steps

Out of Zone Enrolments - LAST CALL!! -

After analysis of numbers we can now confirm that only a **very limited number** of out of zone places will be made available in 2016. **If you are an out of zone family with a child turning 5 next year AND YOU ALREADY HAVE A CHILD AT MATARAU SCHOOL** please advise Kevin NEXT WEEK. While NOT a guarantee of placement, the board is keen to ensure enough places are reserved for siblings of current students.

Central Northland Science and Technology Fair

Parents of children who will represent/possibly represent our school are advised that the Central Northland Fair will take place 24 to 27 August. We will not be able to confirm which children will represent us from the highly commended category (from the school fair) until wider entries have determined the number of available places. Any questions in the run up please to Mrs Abbott. More to follow.

Study Desks

We have a number of old wooden desks surplus to requirements. These might be useful to some of you and might even help to reinforce regular study patterns for your child at home. They are pine (I think) and, if stripped back with legs painted black, could be quite retro. I think these are about \$120 new (mdf) but we are happy to part with these for a donation of \$20. Variety of heights. If interested please contact Kevin or Helen next week.

International Schools Competitions

Practice papers for the Maths exam were issued today. Please ensure your child has some sort of routine for managing these practice papers. Please ensure that children sit at least 2 practice papers a week at home please (parents will also need to mark these - marking sheet provided).

A reminder that the exams are scheduled as follows ... English - 28 July ... Mathematics -11 August. Practice papers for maths exam will be made available week beginning 15 June.

Lost property

Please drop by before the end of term to help us reduce the mountain of lost property. Unclaimed items will be donated to charities at the end of the term.

Matarau Netball

Well Done to the following "Player of the Day"



Yr 3 - Greah S



Yr 2 - Savannah F

Reminders

... parents of year 7 and 8 children are asked to ensure that technology fees are paid by the end of next week please or later by arrangement.

... those opting for term contributions are asked to pay the term 2 contribution at their nearest convenience please.

... Hockey and netball fees to team managers asap please.

... parents of year 7 and 8 students who have not yet returned their "Confirmation of Secondary Forms" are asked to get these to school on Monday please.

Famine

Not all sponsor money (and booklets) have been returned to school yet. As we need to get this money banked please return these **THIS COMING MONDAY PLEASE**. If your child took a booklet and did not participate we still need the booklets back at school. Thank you.

Vandalism ... can you help?

Last weekend quite a bit of paint was splattered around the school (on walls and footpaths) and inappropriate comments were written on some walls. We are keen for information on anyone seen at the school over that weekend who might be worth following up. Those involved would definitely have returned home covered in green and / or blue paint. Please advise Kevin if you have any leads worth following up. We do not believe this was done by any of our students.

Finally

Brief comment today ... I would just like to acknowledge the awesome little guy who comes and plays his guitar in my office every Thursday lunchtime. He even plays some songs I know. The highlight of my day!

Regards

Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them

Sumpter Baughen

Chartered Accountants
Ph 09 438 3939

Email: sarahk@sumpters.co.nz
www.sumpters.co.nz

Community Notices

Wanted to Rent – 4-5 bedroom house, Kamo/rural area, long term, references available. Ph Wendy 4335810 or (021) 2932105.

Wanted to Rent – 3 bedroom house in local vicinity. Phone 0226528147.

For Sale - 4 bdr home in Matarau - wonderful views, in school zone, great neighbourhood. Easy grazing land on 2.4 acres. 1.5 bathrooms, huge deck, new carpets and paint downstairs. Call 027 4 37 1057 for more details.

Free - About 16 funky hairdo chooks (small variety), white and gorgeous colours. Have too many now! Good layers, Polish runners, and Bantams. Used to free- ranging and perching in trees. Call Hana 0274352786 or 09-4350230

All Stars-Kids in Action OSCAR school holiday programme on the following dates: Mon 6th - Fri 10th July, Mon 13th - Fri 17th July. Venue - Raumanga (The Pulse), 8.00am-5.30pm, \$35.00per day, 5-14 years. Activities will include: MYbounce, Kiwi North museum & Kiwi house visit, Turbo Touch, Basketball, Bike riding, scooter and skate boarding, arts & crafts & more. For further information visit our website: www.kidsinaction.co.nz or contact Paul on 021951925.

Kidzone holiday programmes are located at Tikipunga, Whau Valley and Kamo Primaries. We are open from 7.45am to 5.30pm daily during the holiday break. To check out activities organised for each day go to www.kidzones.co.nz. Enrol online via our website for a fast efficient process. WINZ subsidies available. Contact Sandra North on 021 249 3308 or 43 53342 Sandra@kidzones.co.nz

School Hols Author's Talk for Creative Kids / Creative Writing Workshop - Join local author Donna Blaber for an uplifting and inspirational author's talk and/or creative writing workshop. Donna's career spans decades working as a freelance writer, journalist, and editor-in-chief. Today she is the author of more than 40 titles, and she has lots of inspiring stories to share and encourage young readers and writers. Where: May Bain Room (2nd level, Whangarei Central Library), When: Tuesday 14th July 2015, Times: Author's Talk 1pm-2.15pm; Workshop 2.30pm-4.30pm. Best suited to: 8-18 years, Cost: Author's Talk \$5 per person; Workshop \$15; book and pre-pay to ensure a place or pay cash at door. For further info phone 09 432 0933 or visit www.donnablaber.com/schoolhols.html

ASB Holiday Football and indoors Fun Football Centre - Tikipunga Sports Park, Mon 13th to Fri 17th July, 9.30-12.30, \$24 per session or \$96 for the week. Bring Boots, shin pads, full water bottle, morning team, rain jacket and warm clothes. To register or pay on-line www.nff.org.nz or contact Christina for a registration link on 094377294/021795074



Specific Learning Disabilities Whangarei
invite you to
Realising Potential
Forum North, Friday 3 July 2015 7pm.
Door charge \$5 per family; Light refreshments provided

Ray McKimm, founder of Big Save Furniture, and Guy Bowden, founder of Tawapou Coastal Natives, will share how significant others have made a positive difference to their lives as people living with dyslexia. Come and be inspired to be one who makes a difference to young peoples' lives. An amazing Speedstacking demonstration will complete the evening.

Thank You!

to our Trivia Night Sponsors

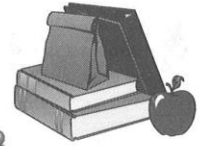
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Many thanks from all the children & parents of Matarau School for their support in helping fundraise over \$3,400 for our school!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Kindness



What is Kindness?

Kindness is showing you care, doing some good to make life better for others. It is being thoughtful about people's needs. Kindness is showing love and compassion to someone who is sad or needs your help. Kindness is treating yourself and others gently. It is caring about the earth and all living things.

Why Practice It?

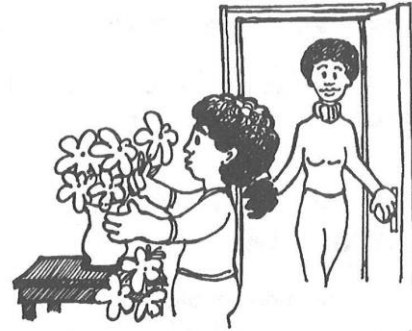
Without kindness, no one would listen when people or animals need help. Everyone would be looking out for himself. The world is lonely without kindness. When someone reaches out to another in an act of kindness, it helps them both. People's lack of kindness to the earth damages the air, water and the land. This causes people and animals to suffer, too. Being kind allows us to feel connected to everything and everyone.



How Do You Practice It?

You practice kindness by noticing when someone or something needs care. Become sensitive to the world around you. Use your imagination to think of things that give others happiness. Find out what habits harm the earth and choose kinder ways to live. When you are tempted to be cruel, to criticize or tease, decide not to do it. Speak kindly instead. Greet people kindly. Take good care of your pets.

The Virtues Project



What would Kindness look like if...

- A new student comes into your class and looks lonely?
- You start teasing your brother and he is getting upset?
- Some kids you have been playing with start teasing a boy with big ears?
- Your cat has some burrs in her fur?
- Your mother seems tired lately?
- You see someone in a wheel chair coming toward you?

Signs of Success

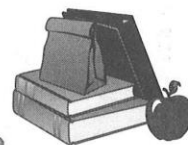
Congratulations! You are practicing Kindness when you...

- Give tender attention to someone who is sad or needs help
- Do things to give others happiness
- Practice habits that help the environment (reduce, re-use, recycle)
- Resist the temptation to be cruel
- Accept people who are different

Affirmation

I am kind. I look for ways to help others. I show kindness to any person or animal I see. I do all I can to take care of the earth.

Activities with Kindness



Environmental Kindness

Choose an improvement project such as picking up trash and do it as a field trip.



Virtues Reflection Questions

- What do most people do when they see someone with a disability or who looks different?
- How does it feel to be ignored, teased, etc.?
- What would be a kind way to treat someone who is disabled?
- Name three ways we can be kind to animals.
- Think of someone who needs your kindness today. What can you do to be kind?
- What would you say or do if someone is not being kind to you?
- How have you shown kindness to people or animals?



Drawing Kindness

Draw a picture of yourself being kind to a person or an animal.

Make a poster with examples of Recycling, Reusing, Reducing, e.g. Reducing: just turning off the tap while we brush our teeth can save lots of water.



Poster Points

- Kind eyes.
- Kind smile.
- Kind words.
- Kind deeds.
- Be Kind to Mankind.



Quotable Quotes

"When you plant a lettuce, if it does not grow well, you don't blame the lettuce. You look for reasons it is not doing well. It may need fertilizer or more water or less sun. You never blame the lettuce. Yet if we have problems with our friends or family, we blame the other person. But if we know how to take care of them, they will grow well, like the lettuce."
Thich Nhat Hanh

*"That best portion of a good man's life
His little, nameless, unremembered acts
of kindness and of love."* W.W. Wordsworth

"The last, best fruit which comes to perfection, even in the kindest soul, is tenderness toward the hard, forbearance toward the unforbearing, warmth of heart toward the cold..." Richter

"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting." Mother Teresa

"There is a grace of kind listening as well as a grace of kind speaking." Anonymous

"If someone listens or stretches out a hand, or whispers a kind word of encouragement, or attempts to understand a lonely person, extraordinary things begin to happen."

Loretta Girzatis